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**EASTERN**

**F.O.  
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 285

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E 285/285/31  
E 2819

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3

E

E 3692

3 MAY

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E3692/285/31

FROM

F.D.

No.

100000

Dated

Received in Registry

3 May 1947

Russian Property in Palestine.  
Palestine at 860 1st April 26. Atala  
IVAN KARPOFF, Commissioner for Religious  
Affairs, is expected to visit Palestine in  
near future. Possible object is to visit  
Russian Ecclesiastical properties.

Last Paper.

2819

References.

Referred to Moscow as our <sup>(Minutes.)</sup> 1507 of 28<sup>th</sup> April.  
*[Signature]*  
(S.E. CABIE)  
5/5

Mr. Lynch Dept.  
10-4/47

J.B. May 5

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*

(Index)

*[Signature]*  
14/5/47

Next Paper.

E 3727

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Reference: **FO** 371/61861

**INWARD TELEGRAM**

76498/47 3 <sup>E</sup>

Ministry of S.  
Colonial Office.

Date 1 5 - 47

*enter*

Cypher (O.T.P.)

Reference \_\_\_\_\_

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 26th April, 1947.  
R. 26th " " 17.15 hrs.

E 3692  
3 MAY

No. 860 Secret.

Addressed to H.M. Ambassador, Moscow, No. 592.  
Repeated to S. of S. (please pass to Moscow as my No. 592)

I have received a report that Ivan Karpoff Commissioner for Religious Affairs, is expected to visit Palestine in the near future. Ostensible object of the visit is connected with Russian ecclesiastical properties.

2. I shall be glad of confirmation of this report as I should like as long notice as possible of the proposed visit.

(Copies to Foreign Office for repetition to Moscow).

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E

E 3723  
5 MAY

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3723/285/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Sir M. Peterson

Dated Moscow.

Received in Registry } 1057  
1. May 1947  
5

Revised Property in Palestine  
Refer Jerusalem tel 592 (E 3092/285/31)  
States cannot confirm and does not wish  
to ask UN for Foreign Affairs. Will inform  
if and when KAPOFF applies for visa, which  
may be delayed if necessary.

ADDRESSED JERUSALEM. U/N.

Last Paper.

3642

(Minutes.)

Copy co. (low magnification)

References.

Northern Dept. Ref. 915.  
m  
24/7/47

DO mem 5

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. Matheson  
P.O.  
✓ May 7

(Action completed.)

FTM/10/r

(Index)

148/48

Next Paper.

11965

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371/61861

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Cypher/OTP

E

FILES

FROM MOSCOW TO JERUSALEM

Sir M. Peterson

D. 5.35 p.m. 1st May, 1947.

Unnumbered

R. 7.00 p.m. 1st May, 1947.

1st May, 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 1057

E 3723

/// 7367/281/21

5 MAY

Your telegram No. 592.

1. I cannot confirm and do not wish to ask Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. I shall let you know if and when Karpnhv[sic] applies for a visa which may be delayed if necessary.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office, Telegraph Section for repetition to Jerusalem]



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E

111065

17 DEC

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E11965/285/31

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Rev. H. Waddell  
Church of England  
Council  
to H. Bealey  
9.10.10  
17

Russian Mission in Palestine  
Who advises on a problem brought up by  
Mr. Tatishcheff, re the Russian Mission  
in Palestine, namely to know whether some  
Russian priests who are DPs and a board  
is going to Palestine to join the mission there, and  
whether British authorities will  
allow same

Last Paper.

3723

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Sp. L. W. G. Mackman  
80  
from W. Bolivar  
March 8.  
encs

(Action completed.)

11/22/3/48

Next Paper.

3660/186/31 48

(Minutes.)

We must consult C.O. on this - unless  
we have strong reasons for turning it down  
out of hand.

Northern Dept. first

We would not like to do that  
as a strengthened Russian Mission  
might be useful, but I very much  
doubt if we should plant anti-  
Muscovites in Palestine officially.  
Certainly C.O. must be consulted; also,  
I think, Mrs Miller of F.O.R.D. who  
knows more about the Russian  
Church in Palestine and M. Tatishcheff  
than I do.  
C. Zarlae RAE  
2/2

Letter to C.O.

Mrs Miller (F.O.R.D.) for obs.

M. Tatishcheff is either head or deputy of the  
Foreign Language section of the State Department.  
He was Mr. Marshall's interpreter at the  
Foreign Ministers Conference in London.  
He is a sincere Orthodox Christian.

29470 F.O.P.

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and genuinely interested from the religious & pastoral point of view in getting some priests to help minister to the ageing and poverty stricken Russian community in Palestine. There are some six communities of Russians there at present & several parish churches. At the moment there are only two priests, Andreiaivitch Antoni, a Father Lazarus, with Anglican, so it would seem a good thing to have one or two more. But if such priests were sent in formal camps it would be wise to have them individually trained.

B. Miller

25/2/48 (but reaches Smith's Dept on 2/3 only!)  
 There may be only the above two priests of the anti-Muscovite persuasion and obedience ~~but~~ (though I doubt if they are really reduced to so little), but there are others who are pro-Muscovite, such as Father Nicolas Bahitch of Haifa and Father Isaiak Bobringar at Ain Karim. See the long report at E 2819.

Dft Letter to C.O.

J. Balfour  
2/3

S. P. Rev. M. Waddams AMW/MSW to Mr Beely 5/3

J.B.  
20/3

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# CHURCH OF ENGLAND COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

(Established at the request of the Church Assembly by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, 1932).

*President :*  
The Archbishop of Canterbury

*Chairman :*  
The Bishop of Chichester,  
The Palace, Chichester.

Lollards Tower,  
Lambeth Palace Road,  
LONDON, S.E.1

*Telegraphic Address :*  
Bridging, Lamb, London.  
*Tel. :* WATerloo 4880

*Vice-President :*  
The Archbishop of York

*General Secretary :*  
The Rev. H. M. Waddams  
*to whom all communications should  
be addressed.*

HMW/LSW

9th December, 1947

Confidential

511065

17 DEC

*Dear Harold,*

I wonder whether you could give me some official advice about a problem which has been put before me. It comes to me in a very roundabout way from the Archimandrite Antony in Palestine via Metropolitan Anastassy of Germany, and Archbishop Vitaly of the United States. It was brought before me in a personal way by M. Alexis Tatistcheff, who was a member of the United Nations Commission on Palestine and is here with the State Department representatives for the Foreign Ministers' Conference. He is, as you may guess, Russian by origin, and when he was in Palestine he saw a good deal of Archimandrite Antony and became extremely interested in the state of the Russian mission there, the members of which he rightly describes as being in a very low state.

He has apparently conceived three plans:

1. To try to persuade the U.S.A. Government to act as a protector of the Russian Mission in Palestine

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2. To start in America a Palestine fund which would support the Russian Mission in Palestine, and

3. To try to arrange for new blood to be added to the Russian Mission, which suffers from the complaint that there has been practically no recruits for a large number of years and that most of its members are very old.

It was in connection with the third of these proposals that he came to see me, and he has the names of five or six Russian priests and monks who are Displaced Persons, and who wish to go to Palestine and join the Mission there. I promised that I would enquire whether the British authorities would be prepared to permit this, and if so on what conditions. I quite understand, of course, that the people in question would have to satisfy the authorities that they are suitable people, but in principle I should be very grateful if you could give me some guidance as to what action if any might be taken.

M. Tatistcheff is extremely anti-Moscow in his ecclesiastical outlook, and I explained to him that I could not be involved in any action which would appear to be hostile to the Russian Orthodox Church, but that I would certainly make enquiries as to the best approach with regard to these priests going. I can supply you with the names later if you wish to have them.

Yours very sincerely,

Harold Bealey, Esq.  
Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.  
*Herbert Waddams*  
16 DEC 1947  
SENT TO DEPT.  
17 DEC

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Registry No. *B 11965/285/31*

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| Top Secret.   |
| Secret.       |
| Confidential. |
| Restricted.   |
| Open.         |

Draft. letter to  
~~Mr. H. C. Morrison~~  
 W.H.E.  
 Mr. Matheson  
 Colonial Office  
 from  
 D. Balfour

*X* ~~Confidential~~ *Conf file* *3pm*  
*S Ward* *5/10*  
 10

Dear Matheson,  
 I enclose a copy  
 of a letter addressed to Harold Bealey  
 by the Rev. H. Waddams, Secretary of  
 the Church of England Council on  
 Foreign Relations, regarding the Russian  
~~ecclesiastical~~ Orthodox mission in Palestine.

The suggestion that five or six  
 displaced persons who are members of  
 the Russian monastic clergy should  
 be allowed to go to Palestine to join  
 the Russian mission is not one which  
 we would be inclined to turn down  
 out of hand. ~~It strengthening of~~ *On the understanding that*  
 the mission would be strengthened by  
 elements likely to resist the spread of  
~~Secret~~ *Secret* political influence among the

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Russians of Palestine, the idea would seem to have advantages; all the ~~the~~ more so as Soviet diplomatic and consular officials have ~~shown~~ tended in recent years to take a sympathetic interest in the Russian monastic foundations in Jerusalem and on Mt Athos, in both of which places they have suffered not only from impoverishment and lack of new recruits but also from the <sup>veiled or open</sup> hostility of the Greek ecclesiastical authorities. On the other hand neither the Foreign Office nor (as Mr Waddams remarks in his letter) the C. of E. Council on Foreign Relations would wish to become involved in activity hostile to the Russian Orthodox Church, as such. Moreover, even if we were to consider the political

and religious

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- Open.

Draft.

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and religious aspects as inseparable, and were to prove, on these grounds, the strengthening of the Mission with anti-Muscovites, we doubt if any initiative ~~action~~ should be taken officially. Action in any case, we feel, should be confined to giving favourable consideration to such applications for admission to Palestine as might be submitted.

Much would, no doubt, depend on the type of cleric who would wish to go, and we note that Mr Waddams is prepared to supply the names of the candidates ~~persons~~ in question. Without becoming involved ~~involved~~ in any American-sponsored scheme for bolstering up the Mission as an active centre of hostility ~~opposition~~ to the Moscow Patriarchate, it might be advantageous to allow the entry of a few suitable persons, ~~Def. the for~~ sincerely   
 *L. G. G. G. G.*

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interested in religion rather than in politics, who would offer passive

resistance to Soviet political patronage. <sup>But</sup> they would have to be well vetted, and not welcomed merely on grounds of political outlook.

We should be grateful for

your views on this question and for your advice as to how to answer the question

~~of Mr Waddams' <sup>last paragraph</sup> ~~letter~~, viz. what~~

~~is the best approach for those~~

What answer should be given to

Mr Waddams.

Yours sincerely,  
John Beckins  
for D.B.

2/3

13

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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*Out file*

14

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

5th March, 1946.

(E.11965/285/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mathieson,

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to Harold Beeley by the Reverend H. Waddams, Secretary of Church of England Council on Foreign Relations, regarding the Russian Orthodox Mission in Palestine.

The suggestion that five or six Displaced Persons who are members of the Russian monastic clergy should be allowed to go to Palestine to join the Russian Mission is not one which we would be inclined to turn down out of hand. On the understanding that the Mission would be strengthened by elements likely to resist the spread of Soviet political influence among the Russians of Palestine, the idea would seem to have advantages; all the more so as Soviet diplomatic and consular officials have tended in recent years to take a sympathetic interest in the Russian monastic foundations in Jerusalem and on Mount Athos, in both of which places they have suffered not only from impoverishment and lack of new recruits but also from the veiled or open hostility of the Greek ecclesiastical authorities. On the other hand neither the Foreign Office nor (as Mr. Waddams remarks in his letter) the Church of England Council on Foreign Relations would wish to become involved in activity hostile to the Russian Orthodox Church, as such. Moreover, even if we were to consider the political and religious aspects as inseparable, and were to favour, on these grounds, the strengthening of the Mission with anti-Muscovites, we doubt if any initiative should be taken officially. Action should in any case, we feel, be confined to giving favourable consideration to such applications for admission to Palestine as might be submitted.

/ Much

W.A.C. Mathieson, Esq., M.B.E.,  
Colonial Office.

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Much would, no doubt, depend on the type of cleric who would wish to go; and we note that Mr. Waddams is prepared to supply the names of the candidates in question. Without becoming involved in any American-sponsored scheme for bolstering up the Mission as an active centre of hostility to the Moscow Patriarchate, it might be advantageous to allow the entry of a few suitable persons, sincerely interested in religion rather than in politics, who would offer passive resistance to Soviet political patronage. But they would have to be well vetted, and not welcomed merely on grounds of political outlook.

We should be grateful for your views on this question and for your advice as to what answer should be given to Mr. Waddams.

yours sincerely,

*John Benn*  
(D. Balfour)

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**Vice-President :**  
The Archbishop of York

**General Secretary :**  
The Rev. H. M. Waddams  
to whom all communications should  
be addressed.

HMW/MSW

9th March, 1948

*Dear Harold*

INDEXED

I wonder whether you got my letter of December 9th about the Russians in Palestine, and if so what you think about the matter I raised therein.

Yours sincerely,

*Herbert Waddams*

Harold Bealey, Esq.  
Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

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